

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-5 are allowed. Claims 6-7 were canceled in an Examiner's amendment. Claims 8-13 were withdrawn due to a restriction requirement. Claim 1 is amended herein. New claims 13 and 14 are added herein.

Applicants are submitting the amendment to allowed claim 1 at this time because of an obvious typographical error in the response submitted by Applicants on August 27, 2003 ("Paper No. 7"). In Paper No. 7, Applicants amended claim 1 to recite that the weight percentage range of the water soluble organic solvent is "from 80 to 90 wt%". Claim 6 recited that the weight percentage range of the water soluble organic solvent is "from 30 to 85%". The amendment to claim 1 should have recited a range of from 30 to 90% rather than 80 to 90%. For example, in Paper No. 7 Applicants state the following:

"As amend[ed] the claims [1 through 5] of the present invention required three (3) components within specific ranges. The components of the claimed invention include from 30 to 90 wt% of a water soluble organic solvent, from 3 to 10 wt% of a sulfonic acid or its corresponding salt, and from 5 to 50 wt% water." (see Paper No. 7 at page 6, lines 5-9).

"Claim 1 is amended to contain limitations related to a range for the amount of each element present in the claimed composition similar to independent claim 6." (see Paper No. 7 at page 7, lines 22-23 though page 8, line 1)

"Claims 1, 3 through 4, and 6 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by US Patent No. 6,232,283 (hereinafter '283)...At no point in the reference is there a disclosure that teaches the combination of from 30 to 90 wt% of a water soluble organic solvent, 3 to 10 wt% of a sulfonic acid or its corresponding salt and 5 to 50 wt% of water." (see Paper No. 7 at page 8, lines 16-20).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that claim 1 be amended to correct this obvious typographical error. No new matter is being introduced in submitting this amendment.

New claims 13 and 14 are being added at the present time to cover particular aspects of Applicants' invention. It is submitted that the addition of new claims 13 and 14 will not require the Examiner to conduct an additional search because claims 13 and 14 cover subject matter that is similar to previously submitted claims 6 and 7. Support for new claims 13 and 14 are provided in the specification, for example, at page 3, lines 26-28, page 4, lines 7-13, and page 18-21.

The amendment to claim 1 and new claims 13 and 14, like previously submitted claims 6 and 7, are not anticipated by the art of record, particularly U. S. Pat Nos. 4,321,166 ("166 patent"), 5,972,862 ("862 patent"), 5,534,177 ("177 patent"), 4,199,483 ("483 patent"), 6,232,283 ("283 patent"), respectively. The art of record does not disclose every element and limitation recited in claims 1, 13, and 14, and claims 2 through 5 which depend therefrom, in as complete detail as is contained in the claims and arranged as recited in the claim.

The composition disclosed in the '166 patent, which is a heavy-duty liquid laundry detergent, contains from 1.0 to 75 wt % water, from 20 to 75 wt % a detergent surfactant that could include a linear alkylsulfonate, and from 0.85 to 2.0 wt % of a corrosion inhibiting system. The amount of linear alkyl sulfonate falls outside Applicants' claimed range. The composition in the '166 patent may also optionally contain other ingredients disclosed in col. 8, lines 29-37. One of these optional ingredients is an alkanoamine. However, the '166 patent fails to disclose how much is used or in what combination. Further, the '166 patent does not recite that the alkanoamine is a "water soluble organic solvent" as required in claims 1-5, 13 and 14.

The composition disclosed in the '862 patent may include a surfactant that includes an alkylbenzene sulfonic acid salt. However, the amount of surfactant, if added, ranges from 0.001 to 1 wt %. The '862 patent specifically teaches that amounts of surfactant outside of this range are undesirable (see col. 8, lines 21-35). By contrast, the amount of sulfonic acid or its salt that is recited in Applicants' claims ranges from 3 to 10 wt%.

The '177 patent is silent with regard to the weight range limitations for the required elements of Applicants' claims.

The '483 patent teaches a heavy-duty liquid laundry detergent that contains from 20 to 75 wt % of a water soluble detergent surfactant. The examples in the '483 patent show a minimum of 30.2 wt % of an alkylbenzene sulfonic acid. This falls outside Applicants' claimed range. Additionally, the '483 patent does not teach a weight percent range for water soluble organic solvent. The examples in the '483 patent show a combined weight percent total of alcohol (assuming it is water soluble) and alkanolamine of 9.5 wt %.

The '283 patent teaches a liquid detergent composition containing 0.1 to 50 wt % of a mixture of specific glyceryl-ether compounds, 0.1 to 30 wt % of a surfactant, 0.01 to 30 wt % of a builder or an alkali agent and the remainder water. The '283 patent does not disclose all

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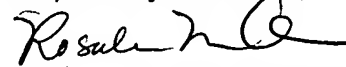
of the required elements of Applicants' claimed invention that fall within the same weight percentage ranges.

SUMMARY

For at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned Attorney at the telephone number listed below. Charge any additional fees required by this paper or credit any overpayment in the manner authorized above.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosaleen P. Morris-Oskanian
Registration No. 47,321

7201 Hamilton Boulevard
Allentown, PA 18195-1501
(610) 481-8169

encl.:

Request for Continued Examination Transmittal Form